(b) if so, what is the total amount of aid received so far and what is the actual amount spent;

(c) what are the reasons for the non-utilisation of the amount of aid received; and

(d) when the period of the agreement expires and what are the prospects of the completion of the project besides further aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A loan agreement for US $ 390 million was entered into with World Bank for modernisation of railway track.

(b) to (d) The total loan amount of US $ 390 million is to be utilised by 31-12-93. As on 31-07-92 US $ 148.52 million have been utilised. The project execution is a continuing activity. Loan agreement may be extended further if required.

Connecting the train to Sri Ganganagar-Abohar Bhatinda

4534. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only one mail train for Sri Ganganagar-Abohar-Bhatinda section connecting rest of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that for the last one year timing of this train has been changed causing 11 hours wastage and waiting causing great inconvenience to the travelling public;

(c) what steps are being taken to correct the timing;

(d) whether there is any proposal to start a mail train during day time on this section;

(e) whether it is a fact that the only mail train connecting Sri Ganganagar-Abohar-Patiala-Ambala section with the capital of Punjab Chandigarh is not operating for the last one year; and

(f) what steps are being taken for the resumption of this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Timings of 3008 Udyan-Abha Toofan Express have been changed between Sri Ganganagar and Bhatinda due to difficult law and order situation in Punjab; the waiting time at Bhatinda being 6 hrs. and not 11 hrs.

(c) its original timings could not be restored due to difficult law and order situation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) There was no direct train running between Ambala/Chandigarh and Sri Ganganagar. Two through coaches between Kalka and Sri Ganganagar discontinued from 30-12-1991 have since been restored w.e.f. 3-8-1992.

Anomaly between traffic and commercial apprentices

4535. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any anomaly prevails between the Traffic/Commercial apprentices selected before to 15th May, 1987 and those selected after 15th May, 1987;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees of the above categories selected perior to 15th May, 1987 and not treated at par with those selected after 15th May, 1987 in terms and fixation of pay etc.;

(d) whether it is not a fact that the Central Administrative Tribunals upheld in their judgements that the above two grades of employees should be treated equally in terms of fixation of pay etc.;

(e) whether the Railway authorities are prepared to issue general instructions to treat both the categories of employees equally in terms and wages etc; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.